Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S PROPOSAL FOR ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION

REF: SINGAPORE 02190

1. REPRESENTATIVE WOLFF'S PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF A
ASIAN PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY WAS THE SUBJECT OF HIS
SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON SECURITY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
DURING MARCH 1978. DURING THE HEARINGS, ADMINISTRATION
WITNESSES (ASS'T SECRETARY HOLBROOKE) TESTIFIED IN SUPPORT
OF THE CONCEPT BUT URGED THAT THE PRIMARY INITIATIVE COME
FROM ASIAN COUNTRIES AND THAT SOME THOUGHT BE GIVEN TO
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THOSE COUNTRIES TO BE INCLUDED. DURING MARKUP OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S FY 79 AUTHORIZATION, REP. WOLFF ATTEMPTED TO INCLUDE \$100,000 AS AN AUTHORIZATION FOR SEED MONEY TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL STUDY GROUP TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING SUCH A PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY. DURING DEBATE OVER THIS PROPOSAL, HOWEVER, IT WAS AMENDED SO THAT A SPECIAL AD HOC STUDY GROUP WOULD BE

ESTABLISHED TO STUDY ALL EXISTING PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES IN WHICH THE US PARTICIPATES. THIS LANGUAGE IS CONTAINED IN THE CURRENT LEGISLATION WHICH IS PENDING BEFORE THE HOUSE. THIS LEGISLATION SHOULD BE VOTED ON SOMETIME IN MID

JUNE. A SIMILAR AUTHORIZATION, WITHOUT THE WOLFF PROPOSAL HOWEVER, IS PENDING BEFORE THE SENATE.

2. REP. WOLFF HAS INDICATED THAT HE IS UNHAPPY WITH THE CURRENT HOUSE LANGUAGE AND IS PREPARED TO OFFER AN AMENDMENT ON THE FLOOR TO HAVE THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY RESTORED. VANCE

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